A Brief Account of the Province of Pennſilvania in America, lately granted under the Great Seal of England to William Penn, &c.

THe King having been favourably pleaſed after a long Solicitation, in Right of my Fathers Services, and a conſiderable part of his Eſtate, to confer and ſettle upon me, and my Heirs, a Tract of Land in *America*, by the name of *Pennſylvania*; with the powers requiſite to the well government thereof; I thought good to publiſh this abreviated account of the former Relation, as leſs troubleſom to Send or Read, for their Satisfaction, that are ſoberly deſirous and reſolved for thoſe parts of the World.

I. *Something of the Place.*

The Place lies 600 Miles nearer the *Sun* than *England*, for *England* begins at the 50*th*. Degree and ten Minutes of *North* Latitude, and this place begins at 40. which is about the Latitude of *Naples* in *Italy*, or *Mompellier* in *France*: I ſhall ſay little in its praiſe to excite deſires in any; whatever I could truly write as to the Soil, Air and Water, this ſhall ſatisfie me, that by the Bleſſing of God, and the Honeſty and Induſtry of man, it may be a good and Fruitful Land.

For Navigation, it is ſaid to have two Conveniencies, the one by lying Nineſcore Miles upon *Delaware* River, that is to ſay, about 70 Miles, before we come to the Falls, where a Veſſel of 200 Tuns may Sail, (and ſome Creeks and ſmall Harbours in that diſtance, where Ships may come nearer than the Rivers in the Country) and above the Falls for Boats, the other Convenience is through *Cheſapeak-Bay*, the head falling within this Latitude.

For Timber & other Wood, there is Variety for the uſe of man, as *Oak*, *Cheſnut*, *Wallnut*, *Popler*, *Cedar*, *Beech*, &c.

For *Fowl*, *Fiſh* and *Wild Deer*, they are reported to be plentiful in thoſe parts, and *Engliſh* Proviſion grows there, and is to be had at reaſonable Rates: The Commodities that the Countrey is thought to be capable of, are *Silk*, *Flax*, *Hemp*, *Wine*, *Sider*, *Wood*, *Madder*, *Liquoriſh*, *Tobacco*, *Potaſhes* and *Iron*; and it doth actually produce *Hides*, *Tallow*, *Pipeſtaves*, *Beef*, *Pork*, *Sheep*, *Wool*, *Corn*, as *Wheat*, *Barly*, *Rye*, and alſo *Furrs*, as your *Beaver*, *Peltree*, *Minck*s, *Racoons*, *Martins*, and ſuch like; ſtore of which is to be found among the *Indians*, that are profitable Commodities in *Europe*.

The way of Trading in thoſe Countries, is thus, they ſend to the *Southern* Plantations, *Corn*, *Beef*, *Pork*, *Fiſh*, and *Pipſtaves*, and take their Growth and bring for *England*, and return with *Engliſh* Goods to their own Countrey; their *Furrs* they bring for *England*, and either ſell them here, or carry them out again to other parts of *Europe*, where they will yield a better price: And for thoſe that will follow Merchandize and Navigation, there is conveniency, and *Timber* ſufficient for Shipping.

II. *The Conſtitutions.*

For the Conſtitution of the Countrey, the Patent ſhows. *Firſt*, *That the People and Governour have a* Legiſlative *Power*; *ſo that no Law can be made, nor Money raiſed, but by the peoples conſent.*

2dly. *That the Rights and Freedoms of* England (the beſt and largeſt in *Europe*) *ſhall be in force there.*

3dly. *That making no Law againſt Allegiance* (which ſhould we, twere by the Law of *England* void of it ſelf that Moment) *we may Enact what Laws we pleaſe for the Good, Proſperity and Security of the* ſaid Province.

4thly. That ſo ſoon as any are Ingaged with me, we ſhall begin a Scheam or Draught together, ſuch as ſhall give Ample Teſtimony of my ſincere Inclinations to Encourage Planters, and ſettle a Free, Juſt and Induſtrious *Colony* there.

III. The Conditions.

My Conditions will relate to three ſorts of People. 1ſt. *Thoſe that will buy.* 2dly. *Thoſe that take up Land upon Rent.* 3dly. *Servants.* *To the* firſt, *The ſhares I ſell ſhall be certain, as to number of Acres*; *that is to ſay, every one ſhall contain five thouſand Acres, free from any* Indian *Incumbrance, the Price a Hundred Pounds, and for the Quit Rent but one* Engliſh *Shilling, or the value of it yearly for a hundred Acres, which ſuch as will may now or hereafter buy of to an Inconſiderable matter; but as I hold by a ſmall Rent of the King, ſo all muſt hold of me by ſome Rent, for their own Security, and the ſaid Quit Rent not to be paid till* 1684. *Or ſuch as can only reach to ſmall parcels, may ten of them buy, each* 500 *Acres, or any other part of a ſhare, ſo they be added together to make a Townſhip.* *To the* ſecond *ſort that take up Land upon Rent, they ſhall have liberty ſo to do, paying yearly one* Penny per *Acre, not exceeding two hundred Acres.* *To the* third *ſort, to wit, Servants that are carried over, fifty Acres ſhall be allowed to the Maſter for every Head, and fifty Acres to every Servant when their time is expired, as well Women as Men: And becauſe ſome Ingage with me that may not be diſpoſed to go, it were very adviſable for every four Sharers to ſend an Overſeer, which would well pay the Coſt.*

The Dividend may be thus, if the Perſons concern'd pleaſe, a Tract of Land ſhall be ſurvey'd; ſay fifty thouſand Acres to a hundred Adventurers, in which ſome of the beſt ſhall be ſet out for Town, or Cities, and there ſhall be ſo much ground allotted to each in thoſe Towns as may maintain ſome Cattle, and produce ſome Corn: Then the Remainder of the fifty thouſand Acres ſhall be ſhared among the ſaid Adventurers, whereby every Adventurer will have a conſiderable quantity of Land together; likewiſe every one a proportion by a Navigable River, and then backward into the Countrey *The manner of Dividend I ſhall not be ſtrict in; we can but ſpeak roughly of the matter here, but let men Skilful in Plantations be conſulted, and I ſhall leave it to the Majority of Votes among the Adventurers when it ſhall pleaſe God we come there, how to fix to their own content.*

IV. *Theſe Perſons that Providence ſeems to have moſt fitted for Plantations, are*

1*ſt.* Induſtrious Husbandmen, and day-Labourers, that are hardly able (with extream Labour) to maintain their Families and Portion their Children.

2*dly*, Laborious Handicrafts, eſpecially Carpenters, Maſons, Smiths, Weavers, Taylors, Tanners, Shoemakers, Ship-wrights, *&c.* where they may be ſpared, or are low in the World; and as they ſhall want no encouragement, ſo their Labour is worth more there than here, and their Proviſion Cheaper.

3*dly*. A Plantation ſeems a fit place for thoſe Ingenious Spirits, that being low in the world, are much Clog'd and Oppreſſed about a Livelyhood, for the means of Subſiſting being eaſie there, they may have time and opportunity to gratifie their Inclinations, and thereby improve Science and help Nurſeries of People.

4*thly*.

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4*thly*. A fourth sort of men to whom a Plantation would be proper, takes in those that are younger Brothers of small Inheritances; yet because they would live in sight of their Kindred in some proportion to their Quality, and can't do it without a Labour that looks like Farming; their Condition is too straight for them, and, if married, their Children are often too numerous for the Estate, and are frequently brought up to no Trades, but are a kind of hangers on, or retainers to the Elder Brothers Table and Charity; which is a mischief, as in it self to be lamented, so here to be remedied; for Land they have next to nothing, which (with moderate Labour) produces Plenty of all things necessary for Life, and such an Increase as by Traffique may supply them with all Conveniencies.

Lastly, there are another sort of persons not only fit for, but necessary in Plantations; and that is, men of universal Spirits, that have an eye to the good of Posterity, and that both understand and delight to promote good Discipline and just Government among a plain and well-intending people; such Persons may find room in *Colonies* for their good Counsel and Contrivance, who are shut out from being of much use or service to great Nations, under settled Customs.

V. *The Journey and its Appurtinances, and what is to be done there at first coming.*

Next let us see, what is fit for the journey and place, when there, and also what may be the Charge of the Voyage, and what is to be expected and done there at first. That such as incline to go may not be to seek here, or brought under any disappointment there, the Goods fit to take with them for use, or sell for profit, are all sorts of Apparel, and Utensils for Husbandry and Building, and Houshold-stuff. And because I know how much people are apt to fancy things beyond what they are, and that imaginations are great flatterers of the minds of men: to the end that none may delude themselves with an expectation of an immediate amendment of their Conditions; so soon as it shall please God they arrive there, I would have them understand, That *they must look for a Winter before a Summer comes*; and they must be willing to be two or three years without some of the Conveniencies they enjoy at home: And yet I must needs say, That *America* is another thing than it was at the first Plantation of *Virginia* and *New-England*; for there is better Accomodation, and *English* Provisions are to be had at easier rates. However I am inclin'd to set down particulars, as near as those inform me that know the place, and have been Planters both in that, and in the neighbouring *Colonies*.

1*st*. The passage will come for Masters and Mistresses to about five Pounds ten Shillings a Head, for Servants five Pounds a Head, and for Children under seven years of age fifty shillings, except they suck, then nothing.

Next being (by the Mercy of God) safely Arrived in *September* or *October*, two men may clear as much Ground by Spring (when they set the Corn of that Country) as will bring in that time twelve Month forty Barrels, which amounts to two Hundred Bushels, which makes twenty five Quarters of Corn; so that the first year they must buy Corn, which is usually very plentiful: They may so soon as they come, buy Cowes, more or less, as they want, or are able, which are to be had at easie Rates; For Swine, they are plentiful and Cheap; these will quickly Increase to a Stock. So that after the first year, what with the Poorer sort, sometimes labouring to others; and the more able Fishing, Fowling, and sometime buying, they may do very well, till their own Stocks are sufficient to supply them and their Families, which will quickly be and to spare, if they follow the *English* Husbandry, as they do in *New-England*, and *New-York*, and get *Winter* Fodder for their Stock.

To conclude, I desire all my dear Country Folks, who may be inclin'd to go into those parts, to consider seriously the Premisses, as well the present inconveniencies, as future Ease and Plenty, that so none may move rashly, or from a Fickle, but Solid Mind, having above all things an Eye to the Providence of God in the disposal of themselves: And I would further advise all such, at least to have the Permission, if not the good liking of their near Relations, for that is both Natural, and a Duty Incumbent upon all, and by this means will Natural Affection be preserved, and Friendly and Profitable Correspondence be maintained between them; in all which I beseech Almighty God to direct us, that his Blessing may attend our Honest Indeavour, and then the Consequence of all our Undertaking will turn to the Glory of his great Name, and the true Happiness of us and our Posterity, *Amen*.

William Penn.

POSTSCRIPT.

Whoever are desirous to be concern'd with me in this Province, they may be treated with, and further satisfied at Philip Ford's *in* Bow-lane *in* Cheapside, *and at* Thomas Rudyard's, *or* Benjamin Clark's *in* George-yard *in* Lombard-street London.